

The School Committees Report: School Committee Goals for 2024-25 School Year; Launch Space Approved

School Committee Goals for 2024-25

The School Committees adopted their goals for the 2024-25 school year at the most recent meeting of the Joint School Committees. The proposed goals are consistent with the Districts' 2023-2028 Five Year Strategic Plan as well as the Districts' Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Anti-Racism.

The School Committees identified four categories of goals including student achievement and success, community relations and outreach, school committee operations, and budget-based goals. Highlights of the student achievement and success goals include enhancing student engagement and foster a welcoming environment for all students from Boston, Carlisle, and Concord, updating critical policies that support the needs of students and the school community, and working with administrators to benchmark and report on the achievement gap with the goal of addressing the opportunity and participation gap for students across all three communities in AP classes, sports, as well as after school clubs and activities.

As part of the community relations and outreach efforts, the Committees aim to improve communication with residents in the three communities. They plan to share key stories about the schools through an annual report for the Town Meeting, as well as in local newspapers and on the District's website. Additionally, they will create opportunities to engage with residents through informal coffee events and by attending local group meetings.

The proposed budget related goals include creating regular review mechanisms that will allow them to evaluate the operating and capital budget process by examining successes and areas for improvement. This will allow them to consider recommendations to improve the process for the following year. The Committee is also exploring ways to balance fiscal responsibility and sustainability as well as how to coordinate with the Towns of Concord and Carlisle on overall sustainability plans. The Regional Committee wants to address the CCHS Campus Completion Plan by reviewing and recommending a plan for the amenities building and exploring how to support the community desire to install a track through community fundraising and seeking grant funding.

Committee members created a goal to memorialize their practice of seeking continuing improvement by examining School Committee operations and reviewing their school committee evaluation process to ensure it serves a defined process. The Committees will create a customized survey in January of 2025. Additionally, the Committees will invite and encourage current and future METCO representatives that serve on the School Committees to attend the Massachusetts Association of School Committees training programs.

For more information on the both the School Committee and Superintendent's goals, interested individuals can visit the Districts' website, www.concordps.org.

School Committee Authorizes a Lease to Create Retail Space for the Launch Program

The Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee authorized District Administrators to enter a lease for the District's Special Education Transitions Program, commonly referred to as the Launch Program. This is a program that supports 18–22-year-old individuals who are moving on from high school to enter a work setting and/or a post-graduate education program in a safe and supportive environment. The program provides students with relevant work and life skills through a proficiency based academic model. The approved lease will enable the District to create a retail storefront that provides students with opportunities to develop work and social skills.

This action supports the Districts' goal to improve outcomes for special education students by providing them with in-district instruction and opportunities. This practice has improved student experiences while avoiding costly out of district tuition payments. District leaders reported that they have been contacted by other school systems in the area who have interest in exploring if they can provide access to the Launch Program for their students; if this occurs, it would help offset the cost of the lease and Launch Program for the Concord-Carlisle School Region.

The vote followed a Request for Proposals issued by the Regional District to locate appropriately sized and priced space to enable the program. The space is located at 199 Sudbury Road in Concord.

Upcoming Meetings:

Joint School Committee November 6 @ 6pm Ripley Conference Room 4

Sign up for School Committee News Individuals who are interested in knowing more about the role of the School Committees as well as receiving the latest updates on school budgets and informational events are encouraged to enroll in the "School Committee News" Subscriber List. These updates will include timely information such as meeting dates and agendas, minutes, event announcements, and the School Committee Report. Individuals can sign up at www.concordps.org/school_committee_subscriber_list. Individuals interested in the Concord Middle School Building Committee (a Town of Concord Committee) can find updates and all relevant materials at <https://www.concordps.org/cms-building-project/cms-building-committee-updates/>